current regulations as laid down in the Exchange Control Manual as well as circulars issued to the Authorised dealers by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time. Normally, these are persons and organisations who are importers of goods and services and those who have been permitted by the Exchange Control Department of the Reserve Bank to contract obligations in Foreign Exchange.

(b) Misuse of this facility by the authorised dealers is sought to be prevented by a monitoring system which consists of a comprehensive set of returns and statements as well as inspections of the Offices of Authorised dealers by the officials of the Reserve Bank of India.

Implementation of Narasimham Committee Report

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: MISHRA:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed study of the Narasimham Committee Report;

(b) whether the representatives of the Bank Trade Unions have been consulted in regard to the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) what action Government propose on the implementation of the Committee's report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (c) Some recommendations of the Committee on the Financial System (Chairman—Shri M. Narasimham) need further consideration and Government propose to implement the recommendations of the Committee in a phased manner.

(b) Two rounds of meetings have been held with the representatives of the banking industry level trade unions/associations.

137. [*Transferred to the 4th May, 1992*].

Increase in inflation and price indices

138. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rate of weekly inflation percentage-wise for the month of March, 1992;

(b) what are the comparative figures of previous year for the same period;

(c) what is the increase in wholesale and consumer price indices since February 29, 1992 indicating the sector-wise break up thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken and are proposed to be taken to keep the prices under check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Weekly inflation rates in terms of wholesale price index (Base: 1981-82-100) for March, 1991 and March, 1992 are given below:

(Per cent)

	Annual Rate of Inflation	
	March 1992	March 1991
1st week . .	12·6	12·9
2nd week . .	13.0	13.0
3rd week . .	12.9	12.4
4th week . .	12.8	12.1

(c) Wholesale price indices are released on weekly basis and consumer price indices on monthly basis. Latest information on consumer price indices is available for February, 1992. Sector-wise increase in wholesale price index since February 29, 1992 are as follows:

(per cent)

Sector	Change in WPI since Feb. 29, 1992 upto 28th March, 1992
All commodities . .	0.6
Primary articles . .	=0.8
Fuel, Power Light & Lubricants . .	1.6
Manufactured products . . .	1.2

(d) The steps taken/proposed to keep the prices under check include: strict fiscal discipline through reduction in fiscal deficit; growth of money supply and bank credit against price-sensitive essential commodities; more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities; and strict action against hoarders and profiteers. The process of macro-economic stabilisation and economic reforms began during 1991-92 and strengthened in the 1992-93 budget proposals is expected to help boost production and ensure near normal availability of essential goods in the market which will keep the prices under check.

Interest on outstanding External Debt

139. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of interest being paid for the outstanding external debt at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The amount of interest to be pai during the year 1991-92 is estimate to be Rs. 5367 crores.

Criminal charges against Collector Customs, Bombay

140. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE b pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that th Collector of Customs at Bombay Air port was recently arrested by the police on charges of molestation anc harassment, made by a lady probationer from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details of the charges made against the Collector of Customs;

(c) what action Government have taken against the said officer; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to safeguard the honour and dignity of the lady officers who are employed and posted at various places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A complaint of alleged misbehaviour on the part of the then Collector of Customs, Sahar Airport, Bombay was received from a lady probationer of the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service belonging to Andhra Pradesh, on 24-3-92. The officer was placed under suspension on 26-3-1992. On a criminal complaint filed by the lady probationer with the police authorities at Bombay, the officer was arrested by the Police on 2-4-92 and was released on bail. All possible steps are taken to safeguard the honour and dignity of lady officers.